



## Wisconsin Apiary Program:

### *Moving Honey Bees or Used Beekeeping Equipment Into or Out of Wisconsin FAQs*



The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) apiary program operates under State of Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. § [94.76](#) and Wis. Admin. Code § [ATCP 21.13](#)) to detect and reduce the risk of potential spread of honey bee pests or diseases. This document contains answers to frequently asked questions about Wisconsin's requirements related to the movement of honey bees or used beekeeping equipment between Wisconsin and other states. If you have further questions, contact DATCP by phone at (608) 224-4629 or email the State of Wisconsin Apiarist Frances Hegarty at [frances.hegarty@wi.gov](mailto:frances.hegarty@wi.gov). This information is also available at <https://bit.ly/MovingBeesIntoWI>.

#### **Before moving honey bees or used beekeeping equipment into Wisconsin**

##### **1. What are the mandatory reporting requirements?**

Before moving honey bees or used beekeeping equipment into Wisconsin, you **must**:

- A. **Fill out and submit the Honey Bee Import Report form before the bees or used equipment arrive in Wisconsin.** The report form (document named DARM-BPI-002) is available as a printable PDF file online at <https://bit.ly/MovingBeesIntoWI> or an electronic version form at <https://tinyurl.com/WI-HBIR>.
- B. **Provide a valid inspection certificate issued within 12 months before arrival to Wisconsin.** The certificate must verify the following:
  - i. Bees are of European honey bee stock.
  - ii. Colonies are free of American foulbrood.

##### **2. Are there local or county requirements?**

Contact county and local municipality official(s) in Wisconsin for any additional honey bee requirement(s) they might have.

##### **3. Do I need a State of Wisconsin inspection and Wisconsin Certificate of Apiary Inspection (Wisconsin Certificate) for next year's planned importation of honey bees or used equipment?**

If you have not received a valid certificate of inspection from another state within 12 months before importing your honey bees or used equipment

into Wisconsin, you will need to obtain a free DATCP inspection and Wisconsin Certificate within 12 months before the arrival of your honey bees or used equipment to Wisconsin.

##### **4. Is there a fee associated with the Wisconsin inspection or a Wisconsin Certificate?**

Although DATCP apiary inspections are free, and each Wisconsin Certificate costs \$50, as required by Wis. Admin. Code § [ATCP 21.05\(3\)\(a\)](#). Wisconsin Certificates will not be issued until the payment of \$50 has been made.

##### **5. How long is a Wisconsin Certificate valid?**

Each Wisconsin Certificate is valid for 12 months from the date issued and costs \$50.

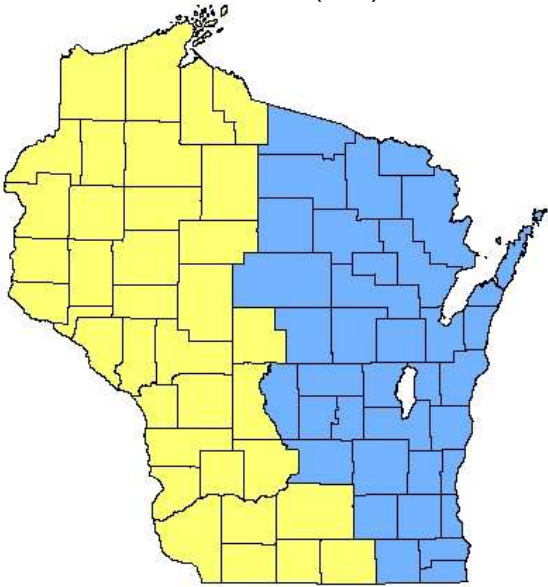
##### **6. How can I schedule a Wisconsin inspection?**

See the contact information and map listed on the next page or visit the DATCP website at [www.datcp.wi.gov](http://www.datcp.wi.gov), and search for the phrase "Apiary Inspection" to find apiary inspector contact information. DATCP conducts apiary inspections May-October. A Wisconsin Certificate can be issued in the fall after an inspection and before your bees or used equipment leave Wisconsin. To schedule an inspection, see the map on the following page and contact the appropriate inspector.

## DATCP Apiary Inspector Territory Map

Western Inspector (Yellow)  
Patrick Sizemore  
[patrick.sizemore@wi.gov](mailto:patrick.sizemore@wi.gov)  
(715) 492-0814

Eastern Inspector (Blue)  
Donna Stine  
[donnar.stine@wi.gov](mailto:donnar.stine@wi.gov)  
(608) 354-3689



### Before moving honey bees or regulated beekeeping equipment out of Wisconsin

#### 7. Does my destination state require a valid inspection certificate?

Most states require a valid inspection certificate. Verify other state's requirements, including how many Wisconsin Certificates you need and regulated pests or diseases, at:

<https://apiaryinspectors.org/laws-and-regulations/>.

If you need a certificate of apiary inspection for out-of-state movement, Wisconsin's apiary program can provide a free inspection and a Wisconsin Certificate (\$50 per certificate). See question 4 for more information about certificate fees. See question 6 for inspection scheduling information.

#### 8. What should I expect during a Wisconsin migratory inspection?

- A. The beekeeper should be present and available to assist with the lifting of hive bodies and frame removal for inspection.
- B. The inspector will ask about colony maintenance and history.
- C. A percentage of colonies will be inspected for common pests like Varroa mites, virus symptoms, brood diseases, small hive beetle, wax moth, and exotic pests and diseases.

#### 9. How should I prepare my apiary for a Wisconsin migratory inspection?

- A. Consolidate all colonies and equipment into the same holding yard or as few yards as possible.
- B. Make sure all colonies are in or on the equipment they will be shipped in. For example:
  - i. Hive bodies
  - ii. Pallets
- C. Make sure colonies, pallets, and other equipment are brushed free of soil, weeds, seeds, ants, and other pests as these contaminants may prohibit your bees from entering certain states.
- D. Know and provide the dates and numbers.
  - i. Date your colonies will be shipped
  - ii. Date your colonies will be entering their destination state
  - iii. The number of colonies you will ship
  - iv. The number of empty, used hive boxes or other equipment you will ship
- E. Each Wisconsin Certificate is valid for 12 months from the date it is issued and costs \$50. Certificates will not be issued until payment has been made.

#### 10. What should I remember if my bees or equipment are returning to Wisconsin?

- A. Fill out and submit the Honey Bee Import Report form **before** the bees or used equipment arrive in Wisconsin. The report form (document named DARM-BPI-002) is available as a printable PDF file online at <https://bit.ly/MovingBeesIntoWI> or an electronic version at <https://tinyurl.com/WI-HBIR>.
- B. Provide a valid inspection certificate issued within 12 months before arrival to Wisconsin. This valid certificate can be requested in Wisconsin before you leave the fall before, or in your destination state, if available.